

The Woman's Column.

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The Woman's Column.

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MR. HENRY B. BLACKWELL.

Henry B. Blackwell was born May 4, 1825, in Bristol, England. He was the son of Samuel Blackwell and Hannah Lane. His father was a sugar-refiner, so highly esteemed for his integrity that when he met with business reverses and decided to try his fortune in America, a number of the leading Bristol merchants combined and offered to lend him at 2 per cent. any amount of money he wished if he would stay among them. Being an advanced Liberal, however, and an admirer of American institutions, he held to his purpose to emigrate. In 1832, with his wife and children, he landed in New York, where he engaged in sugar-refining, and set up the first vacuum pans ever used in America. He had been a "Clarkson abolitionist" in England, and he and his family took an active part in the anti-slavery movement after their arrival in this country. In 1838 he moved to Cincinnati, O., intending to refine the Louisiana "cistern bottoms," and hoping eventually to introduce the making of beet sugar, thus dealing indirectly a heavy blow at slavery by making the slave-grown cane sugar unprofitable. But he died almost immediately after reaching Cincinnati.

His widow was left with nine children and (a family tradition says) with only one five-dollar bill in the house. The mother and the three elder daughters opened a school. One of these daughters later became Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman physician. Another, Dr. Emily Blackwell, was for many years dean of the Women's Medical College of the New York Infirmary. The eldest son married the Rev. Antoinette L. Brown, the first ordained woman minister; so that the family history has been closely interwoven with the history of the woman movement in America—the movement not only for equal suffrage, but for the admission of women to medicine and the ministry.

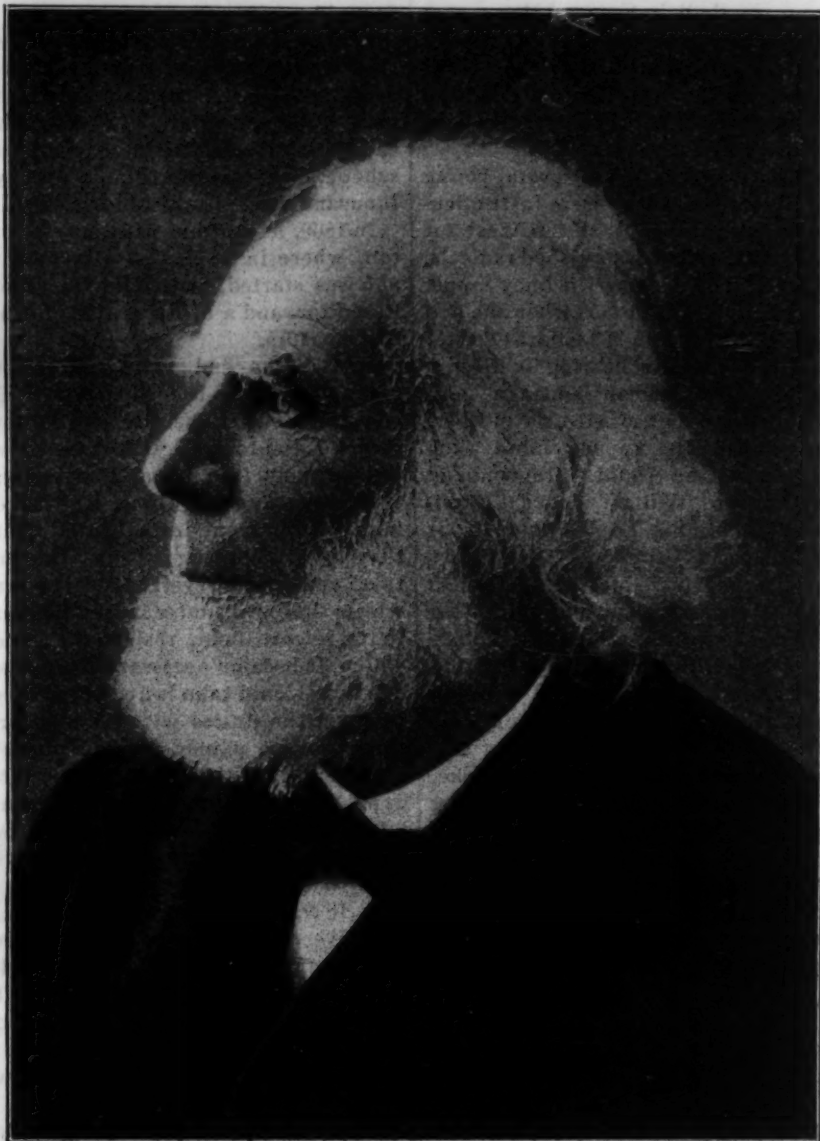
Henry, a bright thirteen-year-old boy, at first assisted his widowed mother by acting as cook for the family. He concocted savory stews in a broken coffee-pot, and boasted that he could make three or four different kinds of bread, all good. Soon after, he became an office boy; then was employed in a bank; later engaged with profit in the milling business, and finally

became travelling partner in a hardware firm, building up a large trade in the Wabash valley. For seven years he travelled on horseback all through Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, often over unfathomably muddy roads, and sometimes riding swiftly astonishing distances through the unbroken forest to secure some business advantage for his firm. He was a young man of brilliant talents. With a fine voice for singing and speaking, of unbounded energy, and a temperament bubbling over with wit and fun, he was a great favorite socially. Though his journeys took him through many malarious regions where it was generally believed that the only way for people to escape fever and ague was to keep themselves soaked with whiskey, he eschewed the whiskey and never caught the ague.

In 1853 he took an active part in the Free Soil movement. A joint meeting of the "Know-Nothings" and the Free Soilers was held in Cincinnati to try to make a coalition. The meeting was stormy and

the effort for union seemed about to fail, when Mr. Blackwell got the floor and made an eloquent speech that carried the audience away and accomplished the fusion. The coalition then effected sent from Cincinnati to Columbus the delegation that made Salmon P. Chase Governor of Ohio—the position from which he afterwards rose to be Chief Justice of the United States. In the same year Mr. Blackwell made his first speech for woman suffrage, at a great convention in Cleveland, O.

The abolitionists claimed that slave holders had no right to take their slaves through the free States; that, if a slave was voluntarily brought by his master upon free soil, he became free. In 1854, notice having been sent to an anti-slavery convention that a family of Southerners were about to pass through Ohio, having with them a little slave girl, a party of hot-blooded young abolitionists determined to make a test case. They boarded the train at Salem, and took the little girl off it by force. Mr. Blackwell happened



HENRY B. BLACKWELL.

to be the one who caught up the child, and he was recognized by acquaintances on the train. The affair made much stir, and a reward of \$10,000 was offered for his head, at a public meeting in Memphis, Tenn. For some time after, strangers used to come into his store and look at him with close scrutiny. When asked their business, they would answer, "Ah, — you, we shall know you, if we ever catch you on the other side of the river!" Feeling ran so high for a time that if he had been found on the Kentucky side of the border he would probably have been burned alive.

Mr. Blackwell was one of several young men of liberal views who were instrumental in arranging lectures at the West for Emerson and other distinguished radicals.

On May 1, 1855, he married Lucy Stone. He had been present in 1853 when she and Wendell Phillips and Theodore Parker spoke at a legislative hearing in Boston in support of a woman suffrage petition headed by Louisa Alcott's mother; and he had made up his mind then to marry her if he could. He confided his wishes to William Lloyd Garrison, who shook his head dubiously as to his prospects of success, but gave him a letter of introduction to Deacon Henshaw, a leading abolitionist in West Brookfield, Mass., where Lucy lived. The deacon received him hospitably, and told him that Lucy was on a lecture trip, but was expected home that afternoon. He spent the hours of waiting in reading Emerson on the shore of the beautiful lake. Lucy could turn her hand to anything about the house; and when he called at the old farm, he found her standing on the kitchen table, whitewashing the ceiling.

He had a long and arduous courtship, for Lucy had made up her mind never to marry, meaning to devote herself wholly to the work for equal rights. But he promised to devote himself to the same work, and persuaded her that together they could do more for it than she could do alone. No man ever kept a promise more loyally.

On their marriage they issued a joint protest against the inequalities of the marriage laws, which in those days gave the husband almost unlimited power over his wife and children. This protest was widely published, and helped to get the laws amended.

His wife had his full support and sympathy in the unusual course that she took in continuing to be called by her own name after marriage. She regarded the loss of the wife's name as a symbol of the loss of her individuality, and could not conscientiously comply with the custom. Eminent lawyers, including Chief Justice Chase, told her that it was only a custom, and not a legal obligation. I have seldom seen my father more indignant than when his wife was debarred from voting for school committee because she would not register as Lucy Blackwell, and because a small Boston official thought he knew more about law than the Chief Justice of the United States. Mr. Blackwell proposed that he and I should go before the registrars and make oath that we had known her for more than twenty years, and that her name was Lucy Stone.

Their early married life was spent at Walnut Hills, Cincinnati. They were near neighbors of Harriet Beecher Stowe. Having known Mr. Blackwell for years as a boy always full of mischief and fun, Mrs. Stowe was amazed to hear of his marriage to the serious and earnest young reformer, and exclaimed, "Is it possible that that wild boy has married Lucy Stone!"

A little later they moved to New Jersey, where he engaged in the book business, in sugar refining, and in real estate, making money in all. In 1858, while in the book business, he introduced into the school districts of Illinois nearly two thousand agricultural libraries.

In 1869, he and his wife moved to Boston, where in 1870 the *Woman's Journal* was started, with Mrs. Livermore as its editor, and a brilliant list of editorial contributors.

Mrs. Stone had raised most of the money to found the paper. Mr. Blackwell contributed liberally to the new enterprise, and told his wife that he would always help the paper financially, but that there was one thing he was determined never to undertake, and that was the labor of editing it. At the end of two years, however, Mrs. Livermore, whose time was under increasing demand in the lecture field, resigned the editorship. It became necessary to find someone who would take it up, and who would perform the duties without a salary, as there was no money to pay one. Mrs. Stone and Mr. Blackwell stepped into the gap. For her sake he put on the harness into which he had declared he would never go, and he has toiled in it untiringly for more than thirty years.

In 1869, with Julia Ward Howe, Mary A. Livermore, George William Curtis, Col. T. W. Higginson, William Lloyd Garrison and others, Mr. Blackwell and Mrs. Stone took part in organizing the American Woman Suffrage Association at Cleveland, O., and for the next twenty years he labored in it indefatigably, travelling all over the country. During the first part of his life, he had been a comparatively poor man, and had had to give most of his time to business. After 1870, having acquired a competence, he was free to devote himself to reform. He was an active worker in the American, New England and Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Associations, always ready to bear the brunt of the drudgery, and to do, gratis, any hard or disagreeable thing that nobody else cared to undertake without pay.

Since he began to speak for equal suffrage, just half a century ago, his ability, vigor and eloquence have been of incalculable service to the cause. "Now you are going to hear the best woman suffrage speech that you ever listened to in your life," the Rev. Anna Shaw said to a friend who had never heard him, when Mr. Blackwell rose to address a convention. His quickness, ingenuity and resource have always been remarkable. Once during an amendment campaign in South Dakota Mrs. Catt and he arrived in a town where they were to hold a meeting, only to find that prejudice had been so strong no hall could be obtained. Mr. Blackwell secured a wagon and stationed it just

in front of the post-office, at the hour when the evening mail came in and all the people gathered to get their letters. He and Mrs. Catt placed themselves in the cart. After ringing a large bell until a crowd had assembled, Mr. Blackwell in his sonorous voice introduced Mrs. Catt, who made an excellent speech. She then introduced him, and he made his address. The people were captivated, and the audience was much larger than they could have had in a hall. This is only one of scores of occasions when his inventiveness has found means to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

Once an important document was wanted without delay. It was in the printing room of the *Woman's Journal*, at the top of a high building which was closed and locked for the night. Mr. Blackwell went up by the fire-escape, got in through a window, and soon came nimbly down by the same airy ladder, bearing the precious paper.

A few years ago the widowed mother of Mr. Blackwell's Armenian man-of-all-work, who had come over to join her son, was stopped by the immigration officers at Ellis Island and condemned to be sent back because of some trifling trouble with her eyes. Mr. Blackwell was away at the time. His daughter and other friends exerted their best efforts to secure her admission, but in vain. Mother and son were in despair. On getting home and learning the facts, Mr. Blackwell, with his usual promptness, started at once for Washington, went to the head Bureau of Immigration, and by vigorous representations succeeded in getting the decree reversed. He reached New York barely in time. Just as the poor woman was being led down to the waterside to be shipped back to a country where she had no longer a single living relation, Mr. Blackwell appeared on the wharf with the papers that allowed her to stay.

It will be impossible to give here even a summary of his work for the equal suffrage cause. He took part in the early suffrage campaigns in Kansas, Vermont, Colorado, Michigan and Nebraska, and later in Rhode Island and South Dakota. In most of these he was accompanied by his wife. He has addressed literally hundreds of suffrage conventions and meetings, always giving his services, and generally paying his own expenses.

He has done suffrage work in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, South Carolina, Missouri, Kentucky, Kansas, Nebraska, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado. In some of these States he spoke before the Legislature, and in others organized great conventions and series of meetings addressed by the best speakers. In many he formed suffrage societies.

He is as able in expressing himself by pen as by voice, and for years he has generally been chosen chairman of the Committee on Resolutions at the annual conventions of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, in order that he may put the resolutions into the best shape.

"I can forgive almost anything to a man who speaks such good English!" said a lady of fastidious tastes, who was very fond of him, but sometimes found his impetuous ways rather exasperating.

In 1872 he secured the adoption of a mild woman suffrage plank by the National Republican Convention, and of a strong and unqualified one in the platform of the Massachusetts Republican Convention. For years he used regularly to go as a delegate to the National Convention of Republican Leagues, in order to secure a resolution favorable to women, which he generally got.

In 1889, when the Territories of North Dakota, Montana, and Washington were about to be admitted to the Union as States, Mr. Blackwell, as secretary of the American W. S. A., visited the constitutional conventions of all three, and personally labored with the members to secure the insertion of an equal suffrage clause. He took with him letters written expressly for these conventions by Governor Warren and U. S. Delegate Carey of Wyoming, Governor Humphrey, Attorney-General Kellogg, Chief Justice Horton and all the judges of the Supreme Court of Kansas, U. S. Senator Teller of Colorado, Governor Ames and U. S. Senator Hoar of Massachusetts, U. S. Senator Davis of Minnesota, William Lloyd Garrison, and others, commending his mission and expressing the hope that woman suffrage would be granted. Copies of these letters, and an appeal signed by Lucy Stone, Julia Ward Howe, and Mrs. Livermore, were placed in the hands of every delegate. Mr. Blackwell was given a hearing before the constitutional conventions of North Dakota and Montana, and before the suffrage committee of that of Washington. In Washington, no result was obtained. The North Dakota Convention voted to grant women full suffrage, but reconsidered the vote and gave them only school suffrage. The Montana Convention voted down full suffrage, but gave tax-paying women the right to vote upon all questions submitted to the taxpayers. Mr. Blackwell's speeches were praised, even by the papers opposed. As usual, he made this long trip at his own expense. He has never accepted a dollar of salary from either the Suffrage Association or the *Woman's Journal*, but on the contrary has always contributed largely to both.

The chivalry and warmth of heart that have led him to advocate equal rights for women in public have all his life prompted him to innumerable kind deeds in private. His inexhaustible fund of jokes causes him always to be adored by his servants, and by children. He is heartily hated by the opponents of equal rights for women, and no man has been so misrepresented or maligned by them, because he is the one man of really superior abilities who has made the promotion of that cause the main object of his life. But he is as much liked by his friends as detested by his enemies; and it may truly be said of him that he is loved the most by those who know him best.

When Lady Henry Somerset and Frances Willard spoke at the opening of the Suffrage Fair in Boston on Dec. 3, 1894, Miss Willard said:

"Why have I come here to-night? Not merely for the sake of this cause, though it is very near to my heart; not merely to increase the money receipts of the Fair, though I hope it will; but because a man asked me—a man with whom I do not agree in politics, a man whose party is not mine, but a man whom I regard as one of the noblest knights of the new chivalry. His name shall be brilliant as an electric light, when generations of the men who say 'Henry B. Blackwell has wasted his life,' have passed away and been forgotten. When the dear wife and mother had breathed her last, and the bereaved family went down from that chamber of death, this man said to his daughter 'We must try to keep Mamma's flag flying,' and I am here to-night to show my loyalty and try to lift that flag just a little higher."

At the celebration in Boston of Mr. Blackwell's 70th birthday, Hon. John D. Long presided, and said: "We honor Mr. Blackwell first as a citizen, a true man; second as representing that cause of enfranchisement which we all hold dear. On this his 70th birthday we recall nearly half a century of devotion to principle, of expression of high character, of the exercise of a pure, honest mind, and the outbirth of a large, generous heart." Mrs. Julia Ward Howe sent her greetings to her "esteemed friend and champion of woman's rights and human freedom." Rev. Chas. G. Ames characterized him as "a knight of the Golden Rule, a hero of humanity." Senator Hoar expressed high value for "his earnest, faithful and efficient labors on the side of righteousness, temperance and true Republicanism." Mrs. Livermore, in a long and appreciative address, said: "He is without exception the most self-effacing man, who takes no credit to himself, who has not one symptom of the 'big head,' who does not know how to brag." Prof. Ellen Hayes of Wellesley said: "He seems to me, more perhaps than almost any man I know, to represent in his character and life the elements of that ideal man whom we women love and reverence and admire." There were affectionate tributes also from Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney, A. R. Spofford, Rev. Samuel May, and other friends too numerous to mention.

It was characteristic of Mr. Blackwell that in his response he said so much of his wife and so little of himself. Referring to the fact that in his boyhood his mother and sisters managed to send him to college in St. Louis for a year, he said:

"If you wonder that I am an advocate of woman suffrage, let me tell you that all I am in the world that is worthy of esteem is due to my mother, my sisters and my wife."

He spoke of the promise he gave to Lucy Stone to devote himself to the cause of equal rights, and his assurance to her that the two together could do more for it than she could alone, and added: "If she had not believed that it might be so, she never would have married. Therefore, am I not under an honorable obligation to devote every energy of mind and body to make that promise good—knowing as I do that all I can do in a lifetime will not be as much as she did in the first three years after I knew her?"

The attendance at this birthday dinner was a remarkable gathering of what was best in New England—best intellectually and morally, and along reform lines. William Lloyd Garrison read an original poem. He seemed to voice the general feeling of the assembly when he said:

Not Bayard, chivalrous and void of fear,
Nor Sidney, knight of noble blood and bearing,
Were more devoted to a duty clear,
Or more unselfish in their love and daring.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, arrived in Denver, Col., Oct. 17, and will remain till Oct. 21. On the evening of Oct. 17, Mrs. Catt spoke before the social science department of the Woman's Club on "A Battle Won: A Battle to be Won." It was a special meeting of the department, and all Federated Clubs and members of the State Suffrage Association were invited. Each woman was privileged to bring an escort. While in Denver Mrs. Catt expects to look into the methods of women in conducting a campaign. She is the guest of Mrs. W. T. Cromwell, and much entertaining is being done in her honor.

The Woman's Journal,

Founded by Lucy Stone, 1870.

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THE END OF THE COAL STRIKE.

Every one is rejoicing over the end of the coal strike. Some features of the long struggle have presented a marked analogy to the still longer struggle to obtain equal rights for women. Indeed, each successive plea of the woman movement has had to go through much the same phases of opposition, in its contest with prejudice.

Those who have held a monopoly of legal, educational, professional, or political privileges have always at first refused even to discuss the claim of the women to share these advantages; have declared that God in his infinite wisdom had entrusted them with the sole charge of these interests, and have obstinately insisted that there was "nothing to arbitrate." When forced from this position by the growing power of public opinion, they have held up an exaggerated picture of the follies and excesses of a few individual advocates of "women's rights," representing them as the rule instead of the exception, and pointing to them as proof positive that the enemies of the monopoly were also the enemies of good order and good morals. But at last, after long delays and much suffering, the question always comes before the tribunal of public opinion to be judged on its merits; and then it is only a question of time when it will be decided in accordance with justice and right.

EDUCATION FOR ARMENIAN GIRLS.

Miss Varteni Baroonian, an intelligent young Armenian lady who has been a teacher for the past four years in the American missionary high school at Erzeroum in Turkey, is now pursuing her studies in Boston. She says that there is a great desire for education among the Armenian girls in Erzeroum, although many of them are too poor to go to school, even at the very moderate price charged to the day pupils—a dollar and a half a year.

"I noticed one lame girl, about twelve years old, who always stayed around the door of the school," said Miss Baroonian. "She could knit very well, but who would buy her knitting? The women of every household knit for themselves. I persuaded my scholars to contribute one cent apiece, and thus pay for her admission to the lower school as a day pupil. She proved very bright and industrious; the teachers told me they were glad to have so good a scholar. But this year I am not there to encourage my girls to contribute for her tuition, and I am afraid it will be neglected. You do not know how hard it was for those girls to get that one cent!

"In Turkey there is no way for a woman or girl to earn money except by school-teaching or needlework, and the pay for needlework is almost nothing. There was one orphan girl who could make fine embroidered edging beautifully, so well that all the consuls' wives wanted her to work for them; but by working day and night for a year, she was able to earn only five dollars—barely enough to pay for her clothes."

Miss Baroonian says that in Erzeroum the orphans whose parents were killed in the massacres are cared for in an orphanage supported by foreign aid, but there are also many orphan girls who have lost their parents by a natural death. These are not eligible for admission to the orphanage, and many of them are utterly destitute, not knowing which way to turn for food and shelter. They can be received as boarding pupils in the American missionary school at \$36 per year for board and tuition, and they will be well cared for. Miss Baroonian speaks in the highest terms of the kindness of Miss Lord, the principal.

It is a great pity that any young human creature thirsting for education should be debarred from it when so small a sum as a dollar and a half will pay for a year's schooling. It is doubly a pity in the case of girls, for, as a wise man has said, "When you educate a man, you educate an individual; but when you educate a woman, you educate a whole family." And it is trebly a pity in the case of Armenian girls, because of their keen intelligence and eager wish to learn. The last number of the *Helping Hand* gives the photograph of an Armenian girl who disguised herself in boy's clothes in order to go to school, because there was no school for girls in her village.

Would not some of our readers like to pay the expenses of a boarding pupil or of several day pupils? There is hardly a Sunday school class in America that could not raise \$1.50. The price of a pair of gloves will pay for a girl's education for a year.

I will gladly forward any contributions. Better still, they may be sent direct to Miss Agnes U. Lord, American Missionary School, Erzeroum, Turkey. In order to be sure of reaching Miss Lord safely, money should be sent in the form of a gold draft made payable to her.

A. S. B.

FEW PAUPERS IN KANSAS.

Mr. T. E. Stephens, of Topeka, in a recently published book, gives some remarkable statistics showing how little pauperism there is in Kansas.

Out of 105 counties, 25 counties do not have enough poor even to attempt the maintenance of a poor-house. All of the other 80 operate poor-farms, but many of these are without tenants, except the superintendent and his wife.

According to State Labor Commissioner Johnson's report of 1900, eight of the 80 poor-houses were without a single inmate during all of 1899; and 29 had an average of less than one per month during same entire year.

In other words, about one-third of the State is absolutely without any pauperism whatever. Another third has so few poor people as scarcely to justify the maintenance of poor-farms, while in the remaining third only nine counties must care for an excess of 40 paupers annually.

The total number of paupers in Kansas is about 1,600—a small fraction over one to each 1,000 population.

Few States can show such a record.

We are often told that it would be financially ruinous to any city or town to let

women vote, because women know so little about business, and because they are sentimental and would vote for such municipal ordinances as would encourage laziness, pauperism, and crime. Evidently, thirteen years of municipal suffrage have not done much to promote pauperism in Kansas. No wonder the Kansas Legislature last year voted down almost unanimously, and "amid a ripple of amusement," a proposal to take the municipal vote away from women.

THE FORTNIGHTLY.

The opening Fortnightly of the Massachusetts W. S. A. for the season was held on Oct. 14, at 3 Park St., Boston, with a large attendance. Mrs. Livermore presided, for the first time since her illness. She was looking unusually well. She introduced Miss Anna Hvoslef of Christiania as "our neighbor from Norway," saying that distance had been almost eliminated by modern invention, and that all the women of the world were now neighbors to each other. Miss Hvoslef spoke on "The Woman Question in Norway." Her address was so exceptionally interesting that instead of giving a brief synopsis, we shall publish it next week in full. Many questions were asked of Miss Hvoslef at the close of her talk. Mrs. Livermore also answered questions about the hydrogen burner which she recommended as a substitute for coal, in her article in the *WOMAN'S JOURNAL* last week. Refreshments and a social hour followed. Three new members joined the Association.

The next Fortnightly will take place on Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 28. The programme will be announced later.

Mrs. Anna Roosevelt Cowles, a sister of President Roosevelt, presented herself the other day before the board of selectmen at Farmington, Conn., and registered her name to vote for members of the school board. When Mr. Roosevelt astonished the conservatives by recommending woman suffrage in his inaugural message to the New York Legislature of 1899, the reporters flocked around him to learn his reasons. He is said to have answered that his home town of Oyster Bay had long been in great need of a new school building, but was never able to get the needed appropriation till the mothers of the children were empowered to vote upon it. Then they voted the new school-house at once. Now that the President's sister has qualified to vote, perhaps some of the "society" women who have thought the exercise of the school ballot beneath them may see a sudden light. As a rule, the women's school vote, though small, has been of excellent quality. In answer to the prediction that the best women will not vote, Col. T. W. Higginson says: "In Massachusetts, under school suffrage, the complaint has been that *only* the best women vote."

The Illinois State Federation of Women's Clubs has endorsed the bill asked for by the Illinois Equal Suffrage Association, asking that tax-paying women may be allowed to vote on questions of taxation and for tax officials.